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SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Did the Government receive any reports from District Collectors about the rise in prices in the districts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: We have not yet had any report. But we have asked them to go into the question, contact hotel-keepers, discuss with them and send us reports.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Are the Government aware that in the Railway Refreshment Rooms, the cost of Sambhar Bath has risen from 20 nP. to 30 nP. recently?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I am unable to understand this abnormal rise. I have figures here about the City. In small hotels the cost of meal supplied has increased by 5 nP.; in medium hotels, the increase is by 6 nP. and in big hotels it is only by 5 nP. per meal. Only the cost of fruit salad has risen by 10 nP.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Are the Government aware that prices in North Madras are higher than those in South Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I have got figures for the City as a whole and if the hon. Member has any other information, I will take it and look into it.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Is the Hon. Minister aware that apart from increase in prices, the quantity has decreased and the quality is not the same as it used to be before?

THE HON. SRI M. BHKTAVATSALAM: I am not aware of it. But I would invite the hon. Member to give me particulars about it.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: May I submit that particulars are not necessary? Such of those as visit hotels—I am not one of those—complain that the quantity has decreased and the quality is not the same.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Because the hon. Member put a supplementary question, I thought he had particular information about these, which the Government do not possess. That is why I wanted the hon. Member to give me information.

Educational concessions

*207 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any sections of the Muslim community are treated as backward communities so far as educational concessions are concerned, and, if so, what they are; and

(*b*) whether the Muslims in the Kanyakumari district are also treated as backward community for educational concessions?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) All Musilm pupils are eligible for half-fee remission in all classes subject to the usual income limits. In addition to this, some sections of the community, e.g., Labbai and Mappilla, are treated as backward communities for admission to educational institutions.

(*b*) No, Sir. No section of the Musilm community in the Kanyakumari district is treated as a backward community. But all Muslim girls are eligible for full fee concession while 15 per cent of the Musilm boys are eligible for half-fee remission.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Did the Government receive any representation from the Muslim community in Kanyakumari district that they should also be treated as 'Labbais' for purposes of fee concession?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not have any information regarding representation from the Kanyakumari district.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : While personally I do not believe in backwardness or forwardness, is it a fact that the Muslims in Kanyakumari complain that in the old Kerala State they were enjoying these concessions and that now these are denied to them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No; whatever concessions were available in the Travancore-Cochin State are being made available even now.

Tamil Encyclopaedia

* 208 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any financial assistance is given by the Government for the preparation and publication of Tamil Encyclopaedia;

(*b*) if so, the total amount so far given;

(*c*) whether any instance of misappropriation of funds has been brought to the notice of the Government; and

(*d*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) In 1948, the Tamil Valarchi Kazhagam proposed to bring out an Encyclopaedia in Tamil and sought assistance from the Government. A total grant of Rs. 4,31,552 has so far been sanctioned for the purpose. The last instalment was paid in 1957.

(*c*) Yes, Sir.

(*d*) The Kazhagam has taken necessary steps for recovering the amount from the party concerned.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know how much has been recovered by the Kazhagam?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : About one lakh of rupees has been recovered.